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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78548

Kenji NAKAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/718,680

Group Art Unit: 2627

Confirmation No.: 1254

Examiner: Brian E. Miller

Filed: November 24, 2003

For: CLAMP MECHANISM AND INFORMATION REPRODUCING MECHANISM

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-RESPONSIVE AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants received a Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment dated January 3, 2007, because the Amendment filed on October 3, 2006, allegedly did not fully respond to the Office Action dated June 5, 2006. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that Applicants did not explain why claim 13 is patentable over the Konno reference.

In response to the Examiner's request, Applicants submit that Konno does not suggest at least the non-zero resultant force recited in claim 13. Specifically, the claim states that, when a plurality holders are in a holding position, a sum of forces, which are exerted by all of the plurality of holders on an information recording medium and which are parallel to a loading plane, produces the non-zero resultant force. Furthermore, the non-zero resultant force is parallel to the loading plane and presses the information recording medium in a predetermined direction.

On the other hand, in Konno, when the three claws 36 are driven in the alleged holding direction, they all respectively press a disc 8 in three different directions that are parallel to a

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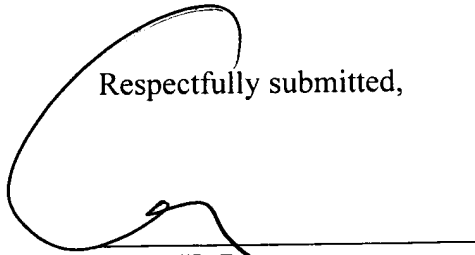
loading plane of the disc 8. Furthermore, since the claws 36 are evenly distributed along the loading plane as shown in Fig. 2, the reference suggests that the claws 36 do not produce a non-zero resultant force as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 13 is patentable for at least this reason. Also, the remaining new claims 7-12 and 14-16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1 or 13.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 29, 2007